

the fabric [has] comprising a number of crossing points of warp and weft in a range of from 2,000 to 70,000/m², [a cover factor of at least 90%,] warp and weft yarns substantially free from twist, [and having] a width of 3 to 20 mm and a flatness as defined by a ratio of yarn width to yarn thickness of at least 20,

the prepreg having a cover factor of at least 90%.

Claim 24, line 1, change "fabric" to --prepreg--.

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action of July 13, 2000, the Examiner stated that it is not clear how reciting a wet process modifies the claimed invention and did not enter the Amendment of June 21, 2000, alleging that it raised new issues. Mr. Nishimura's Declaration of May 12, 2000, shows that a prepreg made by a *wet* process with the cloth of Homma '107 has a cover factor of 75%. On the other hand, a prepreg of this invention also made by a *wet* process has cover factor in the range of 90-100%. The phrase "made by a wet process" is added in claim 22 to distinguish over a hot-melt process. Applicants submit that a prepreg having a higher cover factor than 75% can be made with the cloth of Homma '107 by hot melt method, i.e., putting a thermoplastic film on the cloth and hot pressing.

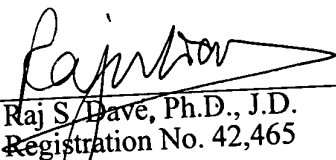
In addition, the Examiner stated that the claims are written to refer to cover factor of the pre-impregnated woven fabric, not just that of the prepreg. Applicants have amended claims 22 and 24 to specifically recite the cover factor of the prepreg claimed. Therefore, now in light of Mr. Nishimura's declaration, which proves that the cover factor of the *prepreg* of Homma '107 made by a wet process is 75%, *not* within the claimed range, claims 22-28 should be allowable over Homma '713 and Homma '107.

A Notice of Allowance is kindly solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent & Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing 360842003400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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